

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-18 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0122]-[0127]. Claims 2-8 and 10-18 are amended for form. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Office Action's indication that claims 3-8 and 10-18 include allowable subject matter. Further, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 9, and claims 2 and 9-21 variously depending therefrom, are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-2 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,562). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Jang does not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claim 1. Jang does not teach or suggest "the stopper drive device moves the stopper toward the lower position in response to the manual feed tray being at or moving to the open position," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

Jang merely relates to a projection 11a that is raised and lowered with a biased spring 12 so that the paper is in close contact with a pick-up roller 20 (see Figs. 1 and 2, and col. 5, line 5 of Jang). The spring moves the projection based on the amount of paper inserted into the device, not based on an open position of a manual feed tray. Therefore, Jang does not teach or suggest a stopper drive device moving the stopper toward the lower position in response to the manual feed tray being at or moving to the open position, as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Jang. Claims 2, 19 and 20, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable for at least their dependency on

independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Jang in view of Tsunoi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,905,046). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Jang and Tsunoi, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed features of independent claim 9. As discussed above, Jang does not teach or suggest "the stopper drive device moves the stopper toward the lower position in response to the manual feed tray being at or moving to the open position," as recited in independent claim 9.

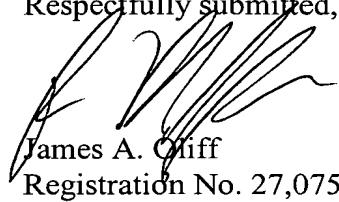
Tsunoi does not remedy the deficiencies of Jang. Tsunoi is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of a paper detection device (see Office Action, page 8).

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 9 is patentable over the alleged combination of Jang and Tsunoi. Claim 21, which depends from claim 9, is also patentable for at least its dependency on independent claim 9, as well as for the additional features it recites. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Request for Continued Examination

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